

COURSE SYLLABUS

2013/14 SCHOOL YEAR

Course: Physical and Space Science - 8

Teacher: Mr. Leiderman

Contact: leidermm@dboone.org or 610-689-6300

How to keep in touch w/ our class:

Class Website - <http://dbmustangscience1314.wikispaces.com>

Course Description:

This course is designed to give **all** students an understanding of Physical and Space Science. It provides the student with the basic knowledge of Physical and Space Science as it relates to them, their range of experiences, and allows them to use their abilities to develop an appreciation of the basic concepts of Physical and Space Science.

The following represents an approximate time-frame of when we will cover each of the different subjects this year. This schedule is a general guide and WILL change throughout the year as time permits.

Course Outline:

- I. Lab Skills (Start-of-year)
 - a. Science Safety
 - b. Lab Equipment
 - c. Measuring in Metric / Unit Conversions
- II. Astronomy (approx. September – December)
 - a. Earth, Moon, and Sun
 - b. The Solar System
 - c. Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe
- III. Motion, Forces, and Energy (approx. January - February)
 - a. Motion and Forces
 - b. Work and Machines
 - c. Energy and Power
- IV. Chemical Building Blocks (approx. February – May)
 - a. An Introduction to Matter
 - b. Changes in Matter
 - c. Elements and the Periodic Table
- V. PSSA Science Review Topics (All year... will pick-up late winter/early spring)
 - a. Scientific Method / Scientific thought process
 - b. Life Science Review
 - c. Earth Science Review
 - d. Physical Science Review
- VI. Selected Science Topics (May-June)

Grading Procedure:

Grades will be based on classwork, homework, lab activities, projects (as assigned), notebook checks/tests, quizzes, and chapter/unit tests. To calculate your grade, take the total points earned and divide by the total points possible. Student grades will be maintained on eSchool and updated as assignments are completed.

I will do my best to keep homework assignments up-to-date on our class website and on my back whiteboard in the classroom. **Incomplete homework is a ZERO!** If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it is YOUR responsibility to show me your completed assignment the next day you are back. If you fail to do this, you will receive a zero for the assignment. If you are absent the day an assignment is given, you may either: #1) get the information off the webpage that night and have it completed when you return OR #2) pickup the assignment and complete it in class as we are reviewing it. Completing "Option #1" will earn you full credit on the assignment. If

you choose "Option #2", you will be excused from the assignment (no grade) but you are still responsible to have the assignment completed in your notebook.

Students are expected to:

1. Be Prepared!

- Be on time to class;
- Be in your seat and quiet when the bell rings;
- Complete any instructions / assignments on front board
- Bring materials to class (pencil, notebook and book(s) EVERYDAY);
- Have any completed homework on your desk;

2. Be Responsible!

- Follow all directions;
- Complete assignments **honestly** to the **best of your ability** (academic dishonesty will result in severe grade reductions for ALL parties involved...);
- Keep your notebook up to date and check it against mine often;
- Cover your textbook

3. Be Respectful

- To your classmates
- To your friends
- To your teachers
- To the school/classroom (**including supplies and equipment!**)

Required Materials:

Each student is required to maintain one 3-ring binder with 4 dividers for this course. The dividers should be labeled: CLASSWORK, HOMEWORK, VOCAB, and LABWORK. I suggest a 1" binder with hard covers. Binders that are damaged beyond repair should be replaced in a timely manner.

Students are expected to maintain their notebook in the same manner and sequence that I keep my classroom notebook. Each quarter, a notebook test will be given (60-80pts) to verify students are keeping their notebook organized. I will always have an up-to-date notebook in my classroom available to compare against. This is the notebook that all notebook tests will be based off. The class website has a "Digital Binder" which also serves as an excellent tool to find lost papers and check the expected contents.

Texts:

Prentice Hall Science Explorer – Astronomy

Prentice Hall Science Explorer – Chemical Building Blocks

*Texts are required to be covered at all times.

Additional Information:

As part of this course, we will be utilizing a classroom webpage or "wiki" to keep up-to-date information such as homework and notebook materials. If a student is absent he or she may check the page to see what was missed in class. Also, photos and video from class may be posted from time to time.

Also, throughout the course of the year there may be opportunities to view films or film clips relating to classroom topics or themes which may range in rating from G to PG-13 (examples: "Apollo 13", "The Right Stuff")

*Parents: If you have any questions regarding either of the above please contact me at your convenience or leave a note in the question/comment area below.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Questions/Comments: